

To: R6 Daily News MailList[R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]
From: Hubbard, Joseph
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Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday Sept. 17
[Daily News Digest 09172015.pdf](#)

1 — EPA chief tells Boozman: Agency did not shirk responsibility in mine spill, Ark Democrat Gazette, 9/16/2015

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/sep/16/epa-chief-tells-boozman-agency-did-not-shirk-respo/>

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency dismissed complaints Wednesday by Republican lawmakers that her agency downplayed the seriousness of a toxic mine spill that fouled rivers in three Western states. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy called the spill caused by her agency "tragic and unfortunate" and said the EPA has taken responsibility to ensure that 3 million gallons of rust-colored sludge released into Colorado's Animas River is cleaned up.

2 — Study: Air pollution kills 3.3 million worldwide, may double, AP News, 9/16/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/Study-Air-pollution-kills-3-3-million-worldwide-6508743.php>

Air pollution is killing 3.3 million people a year worldwide, according to a new study that includes this surprise: Farming plays a large role in smog and soot deaths in industrial nations.

3 – Some researchers recommend moving Mississippi's mouth north to English Turn or Port Sulphur, according to The Lens, Times Picayune, 9/16/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/some_researchers_recommend_mov.html#incart_river

Move the mouth of the Mississippi River north to English Turn or Port Sulphur and abandon communities to their south to preserve other populated areas to their north, say one of several teams of coastal engineering and sustainability experts that have participated in a two-year design competition, according to The Lens.

4 — St. Tammany Parish to accept household hazardous waste Oct. 31, Times Picayune, 9/16/15

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2015/09/morning-energy-animus-over-animas-moniz->

takes-the-stage-210228

St. Tammany Parish residents can get rid of their household hazardous waste -- including batteries, paint and electronic equipment -- on Oct. 31 at the parish government complex on Koop Drive north of Mandeville. The parish's Department of Environmental Services will host Household Hazardous Waste Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

5 — Nordheim residents travel to Austin, protest waste site, Victoria Advocate, 9/15/2015

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/sep/15/nordheim-residents-travel-to-austin-protest-waste-/>

Clad in yellow shirts reading "Concerned About Pollution," Nordheim residents piled onto a bus in the predawn hours Tuesday to protest an oil field waste site proposed a quarter-mile from their town. They arrived home with a sliver of hope.

6 — Inside Blue Bell: Grime and discontent, Houston Chron, 9/14/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Inside-Blue-Bell-Grime-and-discontent-6499325.php?t=9444e170f2&cmpid=twitter-premium>

Benjamin Ofori sometimes watched a mush of strawberries and pecans flow into an ice cream tank even after his production line at Blue Bell had been scrubbed. Low water pressure and temperature hampered Sabien Colvin's cleanup efforts at the plant.

7 — Climate-forced migrations and prospect of refugee crises concern experts, Texas Climate News, 9/16/2015

<http://texasclimatenews.org/?p=11305>

Migration and refugees are two words that have been much in the news lately. The migration crisis in Europe, with thousands of desperate people flooding into that continent from Syria and other troubled nations, is gripping the world's attention

8 – EPA Proposed Rule Could Resurrect Confusing Test for Air Permitting, Texas Lawyer, 9/16/2015

<http://www.texaslawyer.com/id=1202737385197/EPA-Proposed-Rule-Could-Resurrect->

Confusing-Test-for-Air-Permitting#ixzz3m0VxTsXJ

George C. Hopkins is a partner in and Jay Rothrock is a senior associate with Vinson & Elkins in Washington D.C. Eric Groten is a partner in the firm in Austin. In an August 2015 proposed rulemaking under the Clean Air Act that is otherwise directed at amending new source performance standards for the oil and gas industry, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also asked for public comment on a seemingly-innocuous definition that in fact has important consequences for differentiating minor from major sources for permitting under the act.

9 — Keystone and crude oil surprisingly similar fights, Politico, 9/17/2015

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2015/09/pro-morning-energy-wolff-210261>

While these two policy disputes have obvious differences in content, they bear marked similarities. With the House Energy and Commerce Committee set to vote today on a bill to lift a 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports, Elana Schor considers how the export backers and opponents are rolling out many of their old talking points in the current debate: "At the heart of the pro-exports campaign is a national security argument broadly similar to the case for Keystone, which would mostly carry crude extracted from oil sands deposits in Alberta, Canada.

10 — NM leaders push for tougher federal mining law, KOAT, 9/16/2015

<http://www.koat.com/news/nm-leaders-push-for-tougher-federal-mining-law/35313462>

In the wake of the Animas River spill, New Mexico leaders are pushing for federal mining reform. Sen. Tom Udall and Sen. Martin Heinrich spoke before two congressional committees in Washington Wednesday.

11 — TCEQ Thinks Golden Algae is Killing Fish, Big Country, 9/16/2015

<http://www.bigcountryhomepage.com/news/tceq-thinks-golden-algae-is-killing-fish>

Another environmental agency has concluded a naturally-occurring organism is likely killing fish in a local creek.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality launched an investigation in Breckenridge, Texas after they were notified of dead fish surfacing in the Gonzales Creek that runs through town. The presence of an oily substance was also noted.

12 — Will new EPA rules force AEPSCO shutdown?, Will Cox Range, 9/16/2015

http://www.willcoxrangenews.com/news/article_aa1028b0-5be8-11e5-8058-1f11ecbe8eff.html

While the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon dioxide emissions standards for Arizona were greatly eased from its original proposal to its Clean Power Plan final rule, some electric cooperatives are wary that the new regulations will impact the Apache Generating Station in Cochise.